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The President's Daily Brief

February 9, 1974

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

February 9, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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Amman believes that Jordan's mutinous troops are completely under control, but some officials [redacted] fear that the King is not prepared to deal with the problems underlying the disorders. (Page 1)

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The Israelis, professing to see growing support for Jordan among West Bankers, are trying to recruit leaders friendly to King Husayn for positions in a West Bank administration under greater Arab control. (Page 2)

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Greek [redacted]

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(Page 3)

The Cambodian Army has gained some ground in its attempt to dislodge Communist elements southeast of the capital. (Page 4)

Argentina's Vice President Maria Peron will chair a national congress of the Peronist movement that is apparently designed to complete her authority to act for the President when he goes to Madrid for medical treatment later this month. (Page 5)

Mexican federal agents have made an impressive beginning to a special anti-narcotics campaign in Culiacan, Sinaloa, the stronghold of heroin traffic in Mexico. (Page 6)

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JORDAN

The Jordanian Government says it believes the army is completely under control following King Husayn's visits with the troops and the announcement of military pay increases. Some officials, [redacted] nevertheless believe that underlying problems that contributed to the disorders have not been dealt with and are not fully understood by the King.

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ISRAEL

Israel is trying to recruit leaders friendly to King Husayn for positions in a West Bank administration in which Arabs would have a larger role. Most of the leaders apparently are to be drawn from the ranks of traditional, pro-Jordan West Bank notables.

An Israeli Foreign Ministry official has told US Embassy officers in Tel Aviv that Husayn's government, too, has taken steps to improve its position on the West Bank. Amman has, for example, resumed paying the salaries of its former civil servants there who have continued in their positions under the Israeli occupation and who also receive Israeli salaries. These moves by Jordan apparently have Israel's tacit blessing.

Many West Bankers, meanwhile, continue to suspect that Tel Aviv and Amman have secretly agreed to reinstate Jordanian civil control in the West Bank gradually, leaving security in Israeli hands.

Perhaps with such developments in mind, Israeli officials profess to see evidence of a trend toward greater support for Jordan among West Bankers and a lessening of sympathy for the Palestine Liberation Organization. Any increased support for Jordan, however, would probably not reflect a significant decline in the PLO's standing, but rather a growing realization by many West Bankers that King Husayn may represent the only realistic hope that the Israeli occupation will end soon.

Whatever the reasons for it, Israel views such a trend favorably. Tel Aviv has long insisted that it would negotiate only with Amman, not with Palestinians in exile, concerning a West Bank settlement.

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GREECE

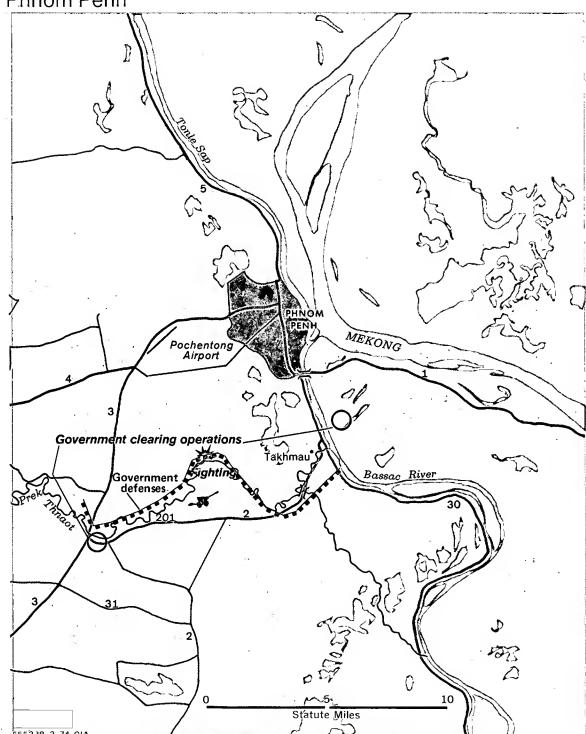


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Phnom Penh



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CAMBODIA

Units of the Cambodian Army's 2nd Division yesterday gained ground in their effort to dislodge Khmer Communist elements located southeast of the capital between Route 1 and the Bassac River. According to a Communist intercept, government operations have disrupted the insurgents' logistic activity.

Government forces anchoring the western end of the defense line also reported progress in sweep operations in the vicinity of Route 3. Elements of the nearby 1st Division, however, continue to meet stiff resistance north of the Prek Thnaot River.

The insurgents are maintaining their artillery positions south of the Prek Thnaot, and an intercepted message of February 6 indicates that they are trying to assemble more 105-mm. howitzer ammunition. Other messages indicate that some of the Communist forces south of the capital have many sick and wounded and need rice.

Insurgent communications still have not disclosed details of the scheduled meeting of Khmer Communist leaders on February 5 or 6 that was to review the tactical situation around Phnom Penh. Some of these leaders may meet late next week with unidentified Vietnamese Communist personnel, according to a message of February 7. The site of this meeting and the subjects to be discussed also have not been disclosed.

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ARGENTINA

Vice President Maria Peron is rapidly becoming the chief political spokesman for the President and will chair a national congress of the Peronist movement which opens today. [redacted]

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Mrs. Peron is said to be taking her instructions from the President. Since Peron's illness last November, his wife has frequently acted for him; the congress may be designed to round out her authority to act for him when he goes to Madrid later this month for medical treatment.

President Peron seems to have given up any hope of placating the leftists, especially Marxist-oriented youth, within his badly split movement. Recently, he virtually read them out of the movement in a speech in which he said the movement could not admit those who seek to impose "foreign" ideologies and doctrines.

If this sharp turn against a key sector of the Peronist movement is formalized at the congress, the cohesion of the movement will be severely tested. Young radicals have already identified Mrs. Peron and several key presidential advisers as reactionary enemies. They seem certain to become more vocal in their criticism when Peron leaves for Europe.

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MEXICO

Mexican federal agents have made an impressive beginning to a special anti-narcotics campaign in Culiacan, Sinaloa, the stronghold of heroin traffic in Mexico. On February 4, the agents raided a wealthy section of Culiacan City reputed to be the home of most of the area's drug traffickers. They seized nine kilograms of heroin and opium and a heroin laboratory, and arrested 17 people. Major traffickers may have escaped arrest, however.

The raid is significant because Culiacan drug barons are accustomed to operating with near impunity. Local police do not enter the area, either from fear or because of payoffs. The raid should serve notice that the federal government means to take a firm hand.

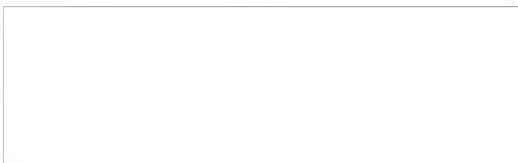
Elsewhere in the Culiacan area, agents in the previous week seized 17 kilograms of heroin and opium, 1 million amphetamine tablets, and over 3 tons of marijuana.

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